

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-16, 21, 23-28, 31 and 33 stand rejected. Claims 17-20, 22, 29 and 30 are objected-to. Claim 32 has been allowed.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-16, 21, 23-24 and 33 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Doi and Pinsky. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited references, namely:

- an image acquiring unit acquiring an image of data, by **directly inputting the image displayed on a data display section of a measuring instrument;**
- the image acquiring unit includes **a camera for focusing on the display of the measuring instrument**
- **and acquiring the image displayed thereon.**

Basis for amended claim 1 may be seen, for example, in Fig. 7 and in the specification at page 15, bottom paragraph, to page 16, line 9. As discussed therein, imaging section 115 takes a picture of a display of a measuring instrument (for example, 101 shown in Fig. 7). Imaging section 115 captures the image data shown on display of the measuring instrument. As stated in the specification at page 15, lines 1-4, imaging apparatus 115 may be **a CCD camera that can capture an image as a still picture.**

As stated at page 16, lines 5-10, the invention advantageously requires no interface apparatus for communicating the output of the measuring instrument to a main unit. By simply taking a picture of the data displayed on the measuring instrument, the invention advantageously reduces the amount of hardware required and provides a health monitoring apparatus at low cost.

Doi discloses a data input apparatus as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. The apparatus includes measuring instrument 1, interface unit 2, and another interface unit 3. The measuring instrument requires that it is **electrically connected** into a terminal of interface unit 2. Since interface unit 2, as shown in Fig. 4, requires electrical contact with the measuring instrument, interface unit 2 must include an electrical interface, or I/O to convert the data provided by the measuring instrument before transmitting the data to terminal device 3. Terminal device 3 is able to display a graph of the stored health data and perform data communication to main terminal 5 by communication through network 4 (Fig. 1). Doi, thus, requires that interface unit 2 and interface unit 3 include electrical interfaces, or I/Os that are adapted to capture the data of the measuring unit and then transmit the data to another main terminal.

Doi, however, does **not** disclose **acquiring an image of data, by directly inputting the image displayed on a data display section of the measuring instrument**. The Office Action admits at page 3 that Doi is silent about acquiring an image "by directly inputting the image." Displayed on a data display.

The Office Action states, however, that Pinsky discloses acquiring digital data by directly capturing and digitizing video images from an image acquiring equipment. The Examiner refers to column 13, lines 11-25, of Pinsky for basis that Pinsky captures video image by directly inputting an image.

Applicants respectfully submit that Pinsky, at column 13, lines 18-26 describes capturing the video images by using commercially available "**frame grabbing**" electronics. These "frame grabbing" electronics require an electrical interface to acquire digital data as bits of ones and zeros, so that the data could be stored or transmitted to another location. Pinsky does **not** suggest acquiring an image of data **by directly inputting the image displayed on the data display section of a measuring instrument**.

In order to bring this feature out even better, Applicants have now further amended claim 1 by reciting that the image acquiring unit includes (1) **a camera focusing on the display of the measuring instrument** and (2) **the camera acquiring the image displayed thereon**. Claim 1, as now amended, explicitly recites that directly inputting the image displayed on a data display is performed by a **camera**, which **focuses on the display of the measuring instrument** and takes a picture of that display and, thereby, acquires the image

displayed thereon. It is respectfully submitted that Pinsky does **not** suggest **using a camera to focus on the display of a measuring instrument** and, thereby, acquiring the image displayed on the display. Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 1.

Although not the same, independent claims 14, 25 and 27 have been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. These independent claims, therefore, are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Claims 2-13, 15-24, 26, 28-30 and 33 depend from claims 1, 14, 25 and 27 and, therefore, are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Although not the same, independent claim 31 includes features similar to amended claim 1, namely, a **number reader for reading numbers in the acquired image**, wherein the **number reader is configured to scan the image** between the markers (as claimed). Claim 31, therefore, is not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 29 and 30 have been objected-to. Applicants for now have not amended these objected-to dependent claims, as they believe that amended independent claims 1, 14, 25 and 27 are now patentable over the prior art.

Allowable Claim

Claim 32 has been allowed.

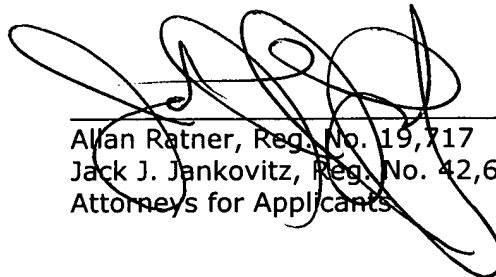
Appln. No.: 09/656,316
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Conclusion

Claims 1-31 and 33 are now in condition for allowance. Claim 32 has been allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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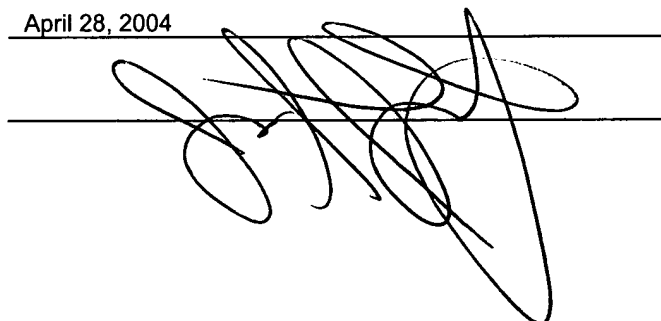
Dated: April 28, 2004

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